Acquiring tuna long liners by CIFNET

3988., DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET) has asked for the purchase of 04 tuna long liners at a cost of Rs. 100 crores to train Indian crew;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that CIFNET has a number of tuna boats at present at Cochin Port;

(d) if so, the number of such tuna long liners presently available with CIFNET; and

(e) the reasons and needs for CIFNET to acquire more tuna long liner fishing vessels for training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Government has accorded approval to acquire one Monofilament Long Lining cum Trawling Fishery Training Vessel by CIFNET at an estimated cost of Rs. 20.00 crore.

(c) and (d) One combination vessel *i.e.* Trawler Cum Tuna Multifilament Long Liner constructed in Japan during 1980 is available at Kochi for imparting practical training to the candidates. The other two training vessels available at Chennai and Vizag are trawlers.

(e) The new training vessel for CIFNET is required in replacement of one of the existing old vessels for imparting practical training on different fishing methods including tuna longlining.

Agri-policy for rainfed areas

3989. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total land under cultivation in the country and out of this, how much land in percentage is rainfed which depends upon vagaries of monsoon;

(b) whether Government have any agri-policy for the rainfed areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to set up a National Rainfed Area Authority; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Estimated net cultivated area in the country is 142 million hectares, out of which, the rainfed area accounts for 85 million hectares (60%).

(b) and (c) The National Agricultural Policy 2000 addresses issues of sustainable agriculture which include watershed development in rainfed areas. As per this policy integrated and holistic development of rainfed areas has been given emphasis through conservation of rainwater by vegetative measures on watershed basis and augmentation of biomas production through agro and farm forestry with the involvement of the watershed community. The policy document also envisages a long term prospective plan for sustainable rainfed agriculture through watershed approach for development of the cropped area which is dependant on rains.

(d) National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) has been established *vide* Government Order dated 3rd November, 2006.

(e) NRAA has a two tier structure. The first tier is the Governing Board that will provide necessary leadership and appropriate coordination in implementation of programmes. The Governing Board is chaired by the Union Agriculture Minister and co-chaired by the Union Rural Development Minister. The second tier is the Executive Committee consisting of technical experts and representatives from stakeholder Ministries. The Executive Committee is headed by a full time CEO and have five other full time technical experts. The mandate of the Aurhotiry are:

(l) To prepare a perspective plan, outlining the national strategy and road map for holistic and sustainable development of rainfed farming areas.

(2) To evolve common guidelines for all schemes of different Ministries including EAPs for development of Rainfed/Dry land Farming systems.

(3) To coordinate and bring convergence within and among agricultural and wasteland development programmes being implemented in rainfed areas of the country.

(4) To identify rainfed areas in different States which need priority attention and prepare watershed development programmes for integrated natural resource management in consultation with States, focusing on multi dimensional crop, livestock, horticulture, agri-pasture integrated systems and programmes for landless farming communities.

(5) To identify gaps in input supply, credit availability, dissemination of appropriate technology and other requirements relevant for rainfed areas.

(6) Guide the implementing agencies on priority setting and monitor the specific interventions required.

(7) To develop plans/programmes for capacity building of Centre/ State Government functionaries in rainfed areas.

(8) To suggest modalities to strengthen National and State Level Institutions concerned with rainfed/dry land areas, and establish institutional linkages with prioritized watersheds.

(9) Monitor disbursement of rural credit/insurance cover/safety net programmes developed for rainfed areas.

(10) Set the research agenda including a critical appraisal of on-going programmes and promote diffusion of required knowledge for integrated farming in rainfed areas to district and lower level authorities.

(11) To evaluate the effectiveness of completed watersheds and concurrent evaluation of on-going programmes.

Ban on fishing trawlers

3990. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have banned fishing trawlers as per Murari Committee Report;